

NOTICE

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FAMILY AND DISPENSARY
CHEMISTS.

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WHOLESALE RETAIL DRUGGISTS
PERFUMERS.

PATENT MEDICINE VENDORS.
Druggists' Sundries.

And
PREPARED WATER MAKERS.
SHIPS' MEDICINE CHESTS REFITTED
PASSENGER SHIPS SUPPLIED.

NOTICE.—To avoid delay in the execution of Orders, it is particularly requested that all business communications be addressed to the Firm, A. S. Watson & Co., or to the
HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.
Communications on Editorial matters should be addressed to the Editor, and not to individuals by name.

Advertisements and Subscriptions which are not ordered for a fixed period will be continued until ordered for publication, but as evidence of good faith.

All letters for publication should be written on one side of the paper only.

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For extra copies of the Daily Press should be sent before 11 a.m. on the day of publication. After that hour the supply is limited.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, SEPTEMBER 30TH, 1894.

It has been more than once suggested that the hostilities between France and China may lead to complications between the European powers. At the recent meeting of the Chamber of Commerce Mr. Buxton is reported to have said: "Possibly this affair that is now taking place may be looked upon as a small affair, but it may lead to complications amongst the mighty powers of Europe." The idea is that France, in her operations against China, may do something which will bring her into collision with other European powers having interests in the Far East. This is quite within the bounds of possibility, but what is much more probable is that China, in resisting France, will be led, either by ignorance or malice or a mixture of both, into the commission of acts against other powers for which substantial satisfaction will have to be demanded. If the demand be resisted, the aggrieved neutral nations will be transformed into belligerents, not acting in concert with France probably but independently. The recent occurrences at Foochow are a sufficient indication of the magnitude of this danger. It is said that when the British Vice-Consul left the Consulate at Foochow before the bombardment, he was hailed by the Chinese, who were excitedly being hoisted by the Chinese, why they should have run up might seem a mystery, but the event that occurred afterwards shows only too clearly what the object was. Not only was the Consulate looted by the Chinese soldiers, but the flag, so we are informed, was deliberately hauled down and treated with the most disgusting marks of contumely to which it could possibly be subjected. Leaving this case out of consideration, however, other injuries inflicted on Great Britain, as to which there can be no doubt, remain. A British gunboat was wantonly fired on and a British officer killed. An explanation of this outrage has been put forward to the effect that a short time previously a French gunboat resembling in general appearance the *Zephyr* had been on the river and the Chinese unfounded the two vessels with each other. On the other hand, it is said that no French gunboat had passed the place in question at the time alleged, but even were this the case the excuse offered is a very weak one. The British gunboat was flying the British flag, is sufficiently well known in China, and under no circumstances could the Chinese be justified in firing on a vessel until they were sure of her nationality. Then again, the British Admiral was fired on. He was passing along the river at Pagoda Anchorage in this gig, no doubt with the flag flying, when a bullet passed close above his helmet, almost grazing it. Had it been an inch or two lower it would have killed him. And now we are informed by a vessel coming down from Foochow that she met a British gunboat off the Kimpai River, River Miu, under the protection of a Chinese flag, her own apparently being no protection. Has it indeed come to this pass? Have we sunk so low that "the day that a British gunboat fired on the British flag, the British flag would be a protection to Englishmen? What construction will the lower classes in China put on the fact of a British gunboat firing the Chinese flag but that Great Britain humbly acknowledges the suzerainty claimed by the Ta Tsin Empire over all barbarian states. That the British flag does not afford protection is shown by the circumstance of the telegraph launch, while flying that flag, having been fired on, not only once, but repeatedly. It will be utterly impossible for Great Britain to stand by and see her flag insulted in this manner. Making all allowances for what may be considered as doubtful or exaggerated in the accounts referred to above, the indubitable fact remains that the British flag has been repeatedly fired on. The only cause that can be urged for the Chinese is that the firing has been the work of ignorant soldiery acting without instructions and under excess of zeal. But if this plea be allowed, in what position does it land us? Must not the Chinese Government be held responsible for placing ignorant coolies in charge of their instruments of warfare? It is, moreover, very questionable whether the high authorities are not really pleased with such acts, so long as they are able to explain them away. It is the business of the soldiers to fire, and of the mandarins to excuse the firing. If the excuses are accepted all is well from a Chinese point of view. The officials could prevent such occurrences

if they were disposed to act vigorously in the matter. The British flag is a symbol of the nation's honor, and it is the duty of the Chinese Government to protect it. The British flag is a symbol of the nation's honor, and it is the duty of the Chinese Government to protect it.

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Another case was before the Police Court yesterday, the defendant being summoned at the instance of Inspector Gray and said \$100. This is the first case in which an offender has been fined for the offence of "obscuring the truth." The case was brought forward by a French gunboat resembling in general appearance the *Zephyr* had been on the river and the Chinese unfounded the two vessels with each other. On the other hand, it is said that no French gunboat had passed the place in question at the time alleged, but even were this the case the excuse offered is a very weak one. The British gunboat was flying the British flag, is sufficiently well known in China, and under no circumstances could the Chinese be justified in firing on a vessel until they were sure of her nationality. Then again, the British Admiral was fired on. He was passing along the river at Pagoda Anchorage in this gig, no doubt with the flag flying, when a bullet passed close above his helmet, almost grazing it. Had it been an inch or two lower it would have killed him. And now we are informed by a vessel coming down from Foochow that she met a British gunboat off the Kimpai River, River Miu, under the protection of a Chinese flag, her own apparently being no protection. Has it indeed come to this pass? Have we sunk so low that "the day that a British gunboat fired on the British flag, the British flag would be a protection to Englishmen? What construction will the lower classes in China put on the fact of a British gunboat firing the Chinese flag but that Great Britain humbly acknowledges the suzerainty claimed by the Ta Tsin Empire over all barbarian states. That the British flag does not afford protection is shown by the circumstance of the telegraph launch, while flying that flag, having been fired on, not only once, but repeatedly. It will be utterly impossible for Great Britain to stand by and see her flag insulted in this manner. Making all allowances for what may be considered as doubtful or exaggerated in the accounts referred to above, the indubitable fact remains that the British flag has been repeatedly fired on. The only cause that can be urged for the Chinese is that the firing has been the work of ignorant soldiery acting without instructions and under excess of zeal. But if this plea be allowed, in what position does it land us? Must not the Chinese Government be held responsible for placing ignorant coolies in charge of their instruments of warfare? It is, moreover, very questionable whether the high authorities are not really pleased with such acts, so long as they are able to explain them away. It is the business of the soldiers to fire, and of the mandarins to excuse the firing. If the excuses are accepted all is well from a Chinese point of view. The officials could prevent such occurrences

On Saturday one of the Chinese workmen employed at the alterations to the Hongkong Hotel met with a fatal fall. He was removed to the Tung Wah Hospital, where he died soon after admission, and an inquest was held on the body yesterday afternoon at which a verdict of accidental death was returned.

We hear that the Mitsui Bishi Co. have purchased the small coal-producing island of Nakano-shima. The island is situated in a strait about two miles to the southward of Takasima, in conjunction with which there is doubtless every prospect of them being able to work it more advantageously than it has been done hitherto. We also hear that the right of working the coal seams on Okishima, situated about two miles to the westward of Takasima, has been acquired by the Mitsui Bishi Co., and that boring operations will soon be commenced, with a view to working on a very extensive scale.

A grand lecture on the subject of the Chinese Government was given by Mr. W. H. P. W. on Monday evening at the Police Court on remand on a charge of assaulting and causing grievous bodily harm to another person. The lecturer, Mr. W. H. P. W., is a well-known figure in the Chinese community, and his lecture was well attended. He spoke of the Chinese Government as being in a position to understand that, whatever may be said of the past, no future insults to the British flag will be condoned. The opportunity might also be taken advantage of to demonstrate to China the advisability of her accepting the mediation offer of England alone or of the Treaty Powers collectively. It might be pointed out to her that in resisting the demands of France not only is she courting certain defeat from that quarter, but is also running great danger of alienating the friendship of other nations by the issuance of action pursued by the ignorant persons who in China fill the place of military officers. "France, we think, would not decline mediation under the circumstances." Possibly she would not moderate her demands, but she would hardly object to those demands being placed before the Peking Government through the mediation of friendly nations, who would then be in a position to tender their advice to China to settle. No one could advise her to fight it out, and perhaps after all France might be found willing to make some slight concession to the demands of the Chinese Government. It is indeed difficult to see how the existing anomalous condition of affairs can be put an end to except by mediation. No war has been declared, either by the one side or the other, but hostilities are in progress and diplomatic communication has been broken off. The mediation of the friendly powers seems the most natural means of bringing about a rapprochement between the two states. England at all events is in a position to insist on China accepting her mediation if she chooses to offer it. In referring to the events that have brought about this position we have purposely avoided all reference to the crop of missionary difficulties that has sprung up during the last month or two.

The Italian corvette *Vettor Pisani* arrived at Manila on the 22nd instant from Honolulu.

It is said that there will be a return, coming from the French, of the *Arctique*, which is to take place at the end of October.

The *Daily News* says: "The steamer *Heera* was at Chefoo on the 19th inst., having broken her high pressure cylinder. As this could not be repaired at Chefoo, the vessel left for Shanghai steaming down with one engine."

Mr. Daniel Barnham, who from the Manila Consulate, has transferred to Messrs. Paul, Harbottle & Co. his contract for the establishment of a ship for repairing ships at Canosa, and the transfer has been approved by the Government.

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RUSSIAN MARKETS

[illegible]

CAPTAIN.		WHERE AT.
Com. Hicks		Hankow
Captain Pearson		Hankow
Captain Powlett		Pechow
Capt. H. N. Hippisley		Shanghai
Lt.-Com. R. L. Groom		Tientsin
Captain Alister		Chow
Com. LaRouche Ching		Ninpo
In reserve		Hankow
Lieut.-Com. Gamble		Chow
Capt. F. F. L. G. McAlear		Nankai
Com. John Hopkins		Shanghai
Lieut.-Com. McQuhan		Pechow
Commander G. W. Hill		Hankow
Lt.-Com. R. B. D. Brown		Chow
Com. Holt		Pechow
Com. Bickford		Singapore
Capt. R. G. Kinsman		Amoy
Lt.-Commander Boller		Hankow
Com. C. Cha. L. Briggs		Singapore
Commodore Morant		Hankow
Lt.-Com. T. E. Maxwell		Hankow
In reserve		Peking
Lt.-Com. C. K. Hops		Pechow

CHINA AND JAPAN STATION.

R.	CAPTAIN.	WHERE AT.
	Captain Freese	Foochow
	Captain Solms	Nankai
	Commander Sedall	Saigo
	Captain Wostry	Shanghai
	Commander J. C. Barclay	Canton
	Commander Jase	Hankow
	Captain Zeller	Amoy
	Capt. M. de S. J. Aguiar	
	Capt. Farrago	Kaelung
	Captain Boulleau	Foochow
	Captain Aschini	Shanghai
	Capt. Fritz Costa Cabral	Crating
	Captain Coulombeau	Paofoa
	Captain Ferrai	Foochow
	Captain Muriel de Baguer	Shanghai
	Commander A. S. Barker	Chitoo
	Captain Koltbas	Yadivostok
	Commander Stuck	Shanghai

Captain Florians	Koaling
Captain Blood	Shanghai
Captain Dohr	Kobe
Captain Grogan	Poohow
Commander Boyle	Madwestcoot
Captain Knappe	Shanghai
Captain Aschep	Tientsin
Commander Valrodt	Madwestcoot
Capt. Bräwinstroff	Chafco
Capt. F. J. McGilvery	Shanghai
Com. G. J. J. Hudson	Yan-tze
Captain Rhodius	Peohow
Captain Poulson	Saigon
Captain Hensing	Cebu
Captain Björk	Cebu
Captain W. Nolin	Cebu
Captain Elsdorff	Kobe
Commander Boyle	Tientsin
Commannd von Notitz	Shanghai
Capt. Avila	Madwestcoot
Commander Bock	Shanghai
Captain Phytian	

Capt. D. E. Hutton	Manda
Captain Virjello	Praising
Captain Flood	Koolang
Captain C. A. Giron	Fooboo
Lieut.-Com. von Karau	Amoy

SQUADRON.

RANK.	COMMANDER.	STATION.
75	—	—
80	—	—
75	—	Hongkong
75	J. Stewart	Canton
80	F. Beggard	—
—	—	Canton
—	—	Hongkong
—	—	Hongkong
25	Leung Yiu Ting	Canton
25	Chow Shui	Canton
25	Lo Joo Ying	Canton
40	Ying T'ing Lip	Bogue Forts
40	Chinese Admiral	Bogue Forts
40	Ching	Bogue Forts

Reserve, Wanchai Street.